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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/890,157	07/27/2001	Michael Inman	INMAN-00714	7656

7590 10/14/2003  
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1423 Powhatan Street Unit 2  
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Alexandria, VA 22314

EXAMINER

MAYEKAR, KISHOR

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1753

DATE MAILED: 10/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/890,157

Applicant(s)

INMAN, MICHAEL

Examiner

Kishor Mayekar

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1753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 48-67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 48-67 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 10.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and 103*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 48-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over KIESER et al. (5,746,051), a reference cited by Applicant. KIESER's invention is directed to a reactor for the plasma assisted processing of a gaseous medium. KIESER discloses in Figs. 1-3 that the reactor comprises all the structures as claimed. Because the gas passages have a pair of opposed sides having contour which matches a contour of the facing surfaces of the pair of electrodes, the shape and spacing of the gas passages inherently provides a substantially uniform distribution of electric field across the plasma volume between the pair of electrodes. If no, the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified KIESER's teachings because the manner in which an apparatus operates is not germane to the issue of patentability of the

apparatus itself. *Ex parte Wikdahl* 10 USPQ 2d 1546 (BPAI 1989); *Ex parte McCullough* 7 USPQ 2d 1889 (BPAI 1988); *In re Finterswalder* 168 USPQ 530 (CCPA 1971); *In re Casey* 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967).

As to the subject matter of claim 50, KISER further discloses the use of aluminum oxide for the insulating material (col. 3, lines 40-44). As such, the selection of any of known dielectric insulating material would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

As to the subject matter of each of claims 51-54, KIESER discloses it of them in col. 4, lines 1-6.

As to the subject matter of each of claims 55-60, KIESER discloses each of them in col. 3, lines 51-59 and col. 4, lines 1-6.

As to the subject matter of claim 61, it has been held that changes of shape to be obvious. *In re Gibson* 5 USPQ 230.

As to the subject matter of claim 62, the manner of operating the reactor cannot be given any patentable weight.

As to the subject matter of claims 63 and 64, the selection of any of known equivalent power supply would be within the skill of ordinary in the art.

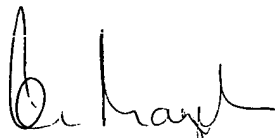
4. Claims 65-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over KIESER '051 as applied to claims 48-64 above, and further in view of WILLIAMSON et al. (5,822,981). The differences between KIESER and the instant claims are each of the limitations recited. WILLIAMSON shows all the limitations in an automatic control system for corona discharge destruction apparatus (see abstract; Fig. 1 and col. 6, lines 19-29). The subject matter as a whole would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified KIESER's teachings as shown by WILLIAMSON because this would result in improved treatment of pollutants.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kishor Mayekar whose telephone number is (703) 308-0477. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on (703) 308-3322. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kishor Mayekar', written in a cursive style.

Kishor Mayekar  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1753

Km